G. R. S. 59] GPB—15,000—22-7-14

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

1900

(Sanitary -)

File No. 38

Serial Nos.

Papers Filed.

(P1 30/E1

Month September 1900.

SUBJECT.

D. O. correspondence re Pg arrangements

P. Seshagiri Rao

PREVIOUS REFERENCES.	LATER REFERENCES.

Bangalore
73 9/24 August 1900

My dear Sir

Mr Krishna Murti, who went to Mysore a couple of days ago, sent me a long letter, embodying the results of his inspection of that city - At his request I enclose a copy of that letter for your kind perusal.

The several matters referred to by him will receive due attention but there is one point on which requires special notice - He seems to think that he cannot take prompt action in a matter which has come under his observation, because under the recent distribution of work the disposal of all References

from the Sanitary Commissioner and Sanitary Engineer" visits with the 2d Councillor - It seems to me that there is nothing to prevent the 1st Councillor in charge of Local and Municipal Funds from obtaining the advice of the Sanitary Commissioner or Sanitary Engineer in matters affecting a particular locality, in which there is a Municipality or which is administered by a Local Fund Board, and disposing of such matters on receipt of replies to references made to the said two officers.

What will go in the first instance, to the 2d Councillor who is also Magna Commissioner are references from the Sanitary Commissioner and Sanitary Engineer of a general nature, which may

require laying down rules of general applicability, or the adoption of measures for prevention & spread of plague and other epidemic diseases and promotion of public health, safety etc of the whole Province. When such references relate solely to any particular locality under a Municipal or Local Fund Board they will of course be transferred to the Member in charge of Local and Municipal Funds for consideration and disposal - If you agree with me I shall inform my colleagues accordingly -

Yours Sincerely

Sd/ T. A. A. Thumboo Chetty

To

The Honorable

Colonel Donald Robertson

C.S.I

Resident in Mysore.

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Bangalore
24-8-00

Dear Mr Manmohan Chetty

Your letter of the 23/24 inst with copy of letter by your address from Mr Krishna Murthy

I agree with you there is no real difficulty I am glad to see that Mr Krishna Murthy is commencing to take some active interest in his outdoor work - The matters he brings to notice do not however afford any valid reason for a change in the recently sanctioned arrangements

Have you spoken to Major

Smyth about the condition of
the Mysore city. Hope the
Dr. sees his health allows him
to be sufficiently active - the
information points to the re-
-bability that the Vice President
might with advantage move
in to some less onerous position,
but you probably know him
and his capacity for work better
than I do

Yours sincerely
Sd Donald Robertson

D.R.

Please let Mr Kirkpatrick
see this letter

D.R.

June 1803. Mercantile Transactions

3

Bangalore
25th August 1900

My Dear Sir

I have sent your letter in re inspection of Mysore City, to Mr. Krishnamurti

I have just had a long talk with Major Smyth. He attributes the increased mortality to the filthy state of the overcrowded and badly constructed dwellings of the people. He is going to Mysore to overhaul the place himself in a few days. His report will greatly help us in deciding what should be immediately done

Yours Sincerely
Sd/- T. R. A. Ammboo Chetty

To
The Honorable
Col: Donald Robertson, C.S.I.
Resident in Mysore.

The Original has been sent off to the Resident and this is sent to the Personal Asst for being placed in the file as directed
25/8/00

Bangalore
25/8/00

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Dear Sir Subramaniam

I have not made any special report on Mysore as I have only drawn the Plague Commissioner's attention to certain remarks made by the Vice President of Mysore City regarding the Cauvery water supply - His office view was implied that the increase death rate was due to the water supply & recommended that the water should according be boiled before drinking. I took exception

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

Code Class. dp

To (Office) Bangalore C.T | From (Office) Mysore

Words.	Date.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.
21/6	26	8	30	dfd

5

To (Person) The Officiating Dewan of Mysore | From (Person) Chief Plague officer

yesterdays attacks 36 deaths 86

total Mortality 42

BANGALORE 26-8-00

Recd. from ... H.M. | Sent to ... H.M.

Telegraph Master.

G.G.P.—No. 15 T.—4.7.98.—100,000

this Known the water supply
the contractors, & fearing the
action of the Municipality to
create alarm amongst the
people & drive them to the use
of the foul well & tank water
in the city — while at the same
time attention was directed from
the true Cause of the increased
mortality — viz the filthy state
of the overcrowded tenements
dwellings of the people — The
ordinary sanitary conditions of the place
is serious neglect (vide
plague Commissioners last
inspection report which
confirms all I then said —

& in which he says "it is
extraordinary that such obvious
insanitary conditions can exist
unnoticed & un-remedied
of the local authority — or words
to that effect — for I have not the
report in front of me.
I am sorry to trouble you & write
the fever rages in open days —
both Calcutta Know the results
from inspection as well as I
can — Numbers I have arrived
the inspection of passengers from
Bombay by rail & the resumption
of the 10 days supervision of arriving
in Bengal from Bombay — both
of which proposals are I believe —
to be adopted — Dark Cell at 1.30
Evening up to
Bengal.

Code Class. dsp

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

To (Office) Bangalore C.T | From (Office) Mysore

Words.	Date.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.
21/6	26	8	30	dfd 5

To (Person) The Officiating Dewan of Mysore | From (Person) Chief Plague officer

yesterdays attacks 36 deaths 86

total Mortality 42

BANGALORE 26-8-00

Recd. from ... At ... Hrs. ... Mts. by ...

Sent to ... At ... Hrs. ... Mts.

Telegraph Master.

G.I.P.—No. 15 I—6 7 98—1 co.0000

M7 letter
Sir M. Grant Duff
Madras
Par

6

My dear friend,

I ~~am~~ sorry I was not at home when you kindly called this morning.

Today's Telegram from Chief Magistrate, Mysore, gives 36 attacks and 36 deaths. There is a tendency to increase. I learn there is a great panic & desertion of houses. I hope that we go to Mysore accompanied by our Assistants and settle about the sanitation of the place, and adoption of all such measures as may be considered medically necessary. During our stay there which will be for a week or 10 days

we may hold our Council meetings
there On hearing from you that
invite to Mr Krishnamurti

Yours affectionately

Yours

(J.) J. R. A.

P.S. We may plan [illegible]
if not convenient to you
Love

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

28th August 1900

My dear Mr

I return copies of your letter to Col Roberts & his reply - I keep the original of the latter as some portions of it refer to some personal matters. I shall return it if you want it. You have certainly rendered great help with Hyderabad Municipality by awarding Jamshed

with grant of a sum of
4 crores of I have written
that Madras Works
and avant Nunney of
this help with fullest
possible extent

Mrs Nanney &
went fully into the
Budget of the
Bangalore Municipality
with the Dy Comd
Vice President. There
is scope for great im
provement - Mr Arrey

Wbe allocated amount
to 69000 ~~Rs~~ / The revenue
of our municipality
falls very much short
of what they realized
the civil & mil Station
It would appear there
will be a meeting of the
Board on Thursday
(day after tomorrow)
& shall discuss the
subject shortly after
that In the meanwhile
there will be no object
in delaying the passing
of the draft which my

be done formally
with this signature and
wed the Secretary seek
your permission when
it is the Council -

May I ask you to
kindly send me Col
Roberts' letter about
the Council work - He
referred to it when I saw
him today - I shall
return it to you with the
Bearer after perusal

Yours very sincerely
Winston Churchill

R D O
T. O. A. Thambo Chelly Faudeka
Fr C. 2/8

8

Submitted
Yesterday
31 Aug 1900

31st August
1900

My dear Sir

Thanks for your
note I just got Dr
Atchyuta Rows diary for
the 28th instant received
with the usual Courier &
finer details of the Case
that occurred in the
Jagan Mohan Et will

Give you consider
of the opportunity of
the position of the Chief
Please Mark

I shall be obliged
by your kindly sending
it on after it has been
explained to the Hyderabad
& Sir Mumbai Chelly—
for personal & secret reference

I expect a further report
in response to my telegram
& also I shall send

Your Wire received
I have given orders
for the Chetwahally
Camp being got ready
for Palace Servants

I am
Yours Sincerely
H. Jadhav Rao

I shall wait on Her
Highness this afternoon
at 4 as directed

9

1 Sept 1908

My dear Sir

As requested by Mr Mathews
Rao I send you herewith
Report which has been drawn by
His Highness

The Covering letter need
not be returned

Yours sincerely

J. R. A. Thornton Esq. C.S.

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

Dear Kitty Dobbs

I am in receipt of your D.O. of the 6th August enclosing me a Note recorded by the Honble Col Robertson regarding plague measures in Mysore. I shall be grateful to the Resident for kindly sending me a reply to the questions raised by Mr Richards as soon as possible so that I may carry out, if need be, the necessary measures in Mysore.

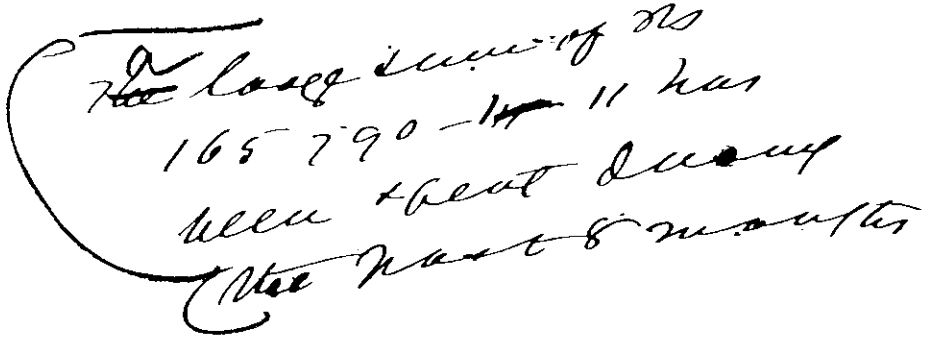
I am sure that the Durbar will be very glad to subscribe Rs 100 towards the Indian Famine Relief Fund. I am a Christian & England is my home but I am a Mysorean by birth & I feel that I owe a duty to the land of my birth. I am sending a cheque for Rs 100 to the Resident's address.

I am sorry to hear that all the

money allotted for by the
Klaque Court for Klaque
Expenditure has been
granted by the Minister
and that can no occasion
[illegible] any public action for
Klaque [illegible] refused [illegible]
[illegible] Lac. of Rs your plead at his high
subject to adjustment [illegible]
Yours Sincerely

6/9

H.M.C. Dotta Esq
Fort and Rum
in Burgh



Fair signed
Rec'd after
above when
let me know
the fate back

7/9

Rec'd
Signed & the
file returned

7/9.

D.O. of First Assistant Resident date September 1900, to the Offg. Dewan of Mysore, forwa a copy of the Honorable the Resident's Note of In tion of the Mysore City.

This will be sent to the Member in charg Plague Department, for favor of needful action.

I have demi officially written to the First Assistant Resident thanking Colonel Robertson for his valuable suggestions andexplaining that so far as the Durbar was concerned there has been "no tendency to un due economy" but that the funds requiredfrom time to time were duly placed at the disposal of the Plague Commissioner.

It is however a matter for regret that the result of the Resident's inspection has been to point out that in the Mysore City, the existing plague arran ments "as far as supervision was concerned fell short of actual requirements and that "there has been a sl ness in administering this (Plague) Department in My sore ". The Resident suggests that "the latest instr tions issued by the Governmentof India could useful be obtained and acted upon ". This seems a good sugges tion which I think we may with advantage adopt.

Sd/ T.R.A.Thuboo Chetty

Mysore, 8th September 1900. Offg. Dewan of Mysore.

THE RESIDENT MYSORE

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BANGALORE.

6th September 1900

Dear Mr. Thumboo Chetty

Colonel Robertson desires me to send you a copy of the Note recorded by him regarding plague measures in Mysore. A copy has been sent to Rao Madhava Rao

Yours sincerely

J. R. A. Thumboo Chetty Esq. C.I.E.
Offg Dewan of Mysore

Note by the Resident on the plague arrangements in Mysore, dated Mysore, the 3rd September 1900.

I inspected the plague arrangements this morning. The system is entirely a voluntary one. There is no removal to hospital against the will of the sufferers, no forcible segregation and consequently no contacts to deal with. The arrangements now in force are on the lines of those adopted on the outbreak of 1898—99, when it was claimed for them that they averted panic and prevented a rapid spread of this mysterious ailment, without, so far as could be seen with a limited experience, at the same time enhancing either the duration of the outbreak or the total mortality which had been experienced in other plague infected places. I was myself an exponent of, and believer in, the Mysore system, and the evidence in connection therewith which my Assistant, Mr. Cadell, and I gave before the Plague Commission, has, I see, been prominently alluded to in their report. Since the days when plague appeared in India in 1896, the policy of our repressive measures has changed materially. With practically no experience of the administrative control most suitable to what is perhaps the most difficult disease medical men have had to cope with, the authorities naturally made many mistakes, but it has at last come to be officially recognized that it is impossible to fight the people and the plague at the same time, and measures which were at one time condemned as weak and unsuitable, are now accepted as affording the best chances of success.

There is, however, a very wide distinction between even the voluntary system of Mysore, and the system of practically allowing the disease to look after itself and making no attempts to eradicate it. I am afraid that in the Mysore City the authorities have either drifted into the position of what almost amounts to an admission of helplessness, or, through motives of economy, have slackened off all round, allowing conciliation to proceed to lengths of which the people or those of them who have not left the *City are not slow to take advantage. The following is briefly an account of the arrangements now in force.

*About 20% are said to have departed panic stricken. There is, however, no certainty about numbers, nor is there anything beyond the vaguest surmise as to where the bulk of these people have gone to.

The Chief Plague Officer is Doctor Achyut Rao, who is very competent and an excellent officer in every respect.

The City is divided into 7 mohallahs, each of which has been placed in charge of a Hospital Assistant. The three Hospital Assistants in charge of the 3 Municipal dispensaries and three Hospital Assistants from the General Hospital used to help the Chief Plague Officer in detecting seizures and certifying deaths, an obviously undesirable arrangement. During the past 3 days, however, 4 Hospital Assistants have been deputed solely for plague duty, and these are now assisted by the three Hospital Assistants in charge of the Municipal dispensaries. To each block there is a supervisor, a mohallah has 3 blocks, there are consequently 21 blocks managed by 21 supervisors.

No attempt is made to record the names or numbers of arrivals or departures. So, as I have mentioned, there is no information as to the movements of the population. The supervisors are expected to ascertain cases of sickness within their charges and communicate with the Hospital Assistants who then visit the houses affected, report plague seizures, and subsequently certify causes of deaths. How far this work is honestly done I do not know, but I see no reason to believe that the results obtained are not as correct as they ordinarily are, in view of the uncertainty which attaches to the diagnosis of non-bubonic plague. Comparing the total number of deaths with the presumably normal mortality (which the deficient registration in past years necessarily renders uncertain) I should be inclined to say that most cases of plague are truly returned as such.

So far as I have gone in this Note the arrangements seem to me suitable to a voluntary system. I must also admit that the 18 peons in charge of the 9 burial and burning places, appear, from the death certificates of yesterday which I examined this morning, to be doing their duty satisfactorily; the authorities are therefore entitled to claim that they register all deaths within the Municipal area. From this point onwards the sanctioned measures are in my opinion perfunctory and insufficient. It cannot, I think, be controverted that even though the system be in the main a voluntary one, at least some of the people, especially those of the poorer classes, who inhabit wretchedly dirty hovels, and have no means whatever of providing the nursing which is of supreme importance in plague cases, should be induced to go to Hospital, provided of course they can be discovered before they are *in extremis*; further that this step is eminently desirable even though it may not be possible to get hold of the contacts. It would not moreover alienate the sympathies of the better classes who could be allowed as at present to remain in their houses. Though for several days the seizures have been over 30, and on some days even more than 40, the attacks being largely amongst the very poor and the dirtiest section of the community, there are at the present time only 17 in Hospital. Again, even amongst well to do persons who live in better houses, there must surely be an appreciable number who would accept advice in their houses but are too poor to pay for restoratives. *Hakims* are said to be treating a good many, and we all know that there is hardly any prejudice against English medicine in this part of India. In the Epidemic of 1898 in the Bangalore Civil and Military Station, though full facilities were placed in the way of sufferers from plague resorting to the native method of treatment, I believe I am correct in saying that in no case did any one take advantage of such facilities. I was, however, told by Dr. Achyut Rao that with the exception of one Hospital Assistant none of the 7 employed do any medical work. There may possibly be some reason for this unsatisfactory state of things, which could be remedied or removed, but that the English system of treatment receives no official encouragement is clear from the fact that practically all these Hospital Assistants are supposed to do is to give prescriptions to be presented at the nearest dispensary. This is quite insufficient. It should not be difficult to arrange for a peripatetic distribution of medicines and especially of restoratives, of which supplies could be kept at various convenient centres, and I desire to bring to the notice of the Plague Commissioner what appears to be an urgent want. It is entirely unreasonable to expect people with small establishments to send for medicine. Medical help, if it is to be afforded at all, should, under the existing Mysore system, be brought to the homes of the sufferers; unless this is done it would be better to modify the present imperfect arrangement and to make no pretence of treating people in their houses. If it be objected that the cost of establishing depôts for medicines &c., would be considerable, it may be observed that there is now no expenditure on feeding contacts, and that the bill for dieting patients in the Hospital must be small. As regards the Hospital it is, I understand, managed on very economical lines, there being apparently insufficient money even to mend the side chicks which protect the patients from the wind.

An absolutely essential adjunct to the voluntary system is disinfection. In this respect the arrangements are weak and unsatisfactory; until within the last 2 or 3 days, they were under the guidance of one aged Eurasian whom I did not see; another man has now been appointed, but he is entirely of subordinate status and not fit, either by intelligence or knowledge of the essentials, to be entrusted with this responsible work. There are said to be 4 parties of 10 men each under a gangman—a superior sort of cooly—on Rs. 10. The whole arrangements being supervised by the Health Officer who has just joined and will not be of much assistance for some days. Even when he acquires sufficient local knowledge it is very doubtful whether any one person can combine efficiently the duties of Health Officer (in such a City as Mysore, which as the residence of the Ruling Family should be, *but is not*, kept in a proper sate of sanitation) and Head Disinfecting Officer; but even if this official confine his attention entirely to disinfection he cannot be in several places at once, and what is required is efficient personal supervision over the actual work wherever it is in progress. I saw one house under process of disinfection and others which had recently been completed; some of these seemed to me nice and clean, others

again, especially those which needed this attention most, had been badly done. It cannot be too strongly insisted upon that disinfection should be *promptly* and *efficiently* carried out. Apparently in Mysore it is now undertaken in those cases where it is *attempted at all somewhat leisurely, that is to say in 2 or 3 days after the death has occurred, the family meanwhile being allowed to remain on under conditions which must be favourable to the spread of infection.

*In about 10 % the houses are not disinfected.

I make bold to affirm that unless disinfection is properly done it is better to avoid the inevitable bother to the people, to say nothing of the discredit to the process which actually arises, and to leave it undone. If it be not carried out under carefully selected and reliable supervision, it will not be honestly and efficiently performed. In the Civil and Military Station if it was found necessary to employ English Commissioned Officers on this duty, it seems to be fairly evident that in the Mysore City the existing arrangements, as far as supervision is concerned, fall short of actual requirements. I think therefore that the disinfection staff should at once be reorganized, the supervision improved, and the number of coolies if necessary to avoid delay increased; at least two officers of the grade of Assistant Commissioner might be deputed for this important work. The latest instructions issued by the Government of India could usefully be obtained and acted upon. I noticed that the coolies were squirting the inside of the roofs of huts which is not now considered necessary, that they had no shoes on, and that lime had been in soms cases very inadequately applied. Narrow strips of the roofs of some of the houses had been taken off. I have no wish or right to dogmatize on this point, but merely to let in a streak of light and some air into a hut can, I suggest, hardly be sufficient to exterminate all the plague germs, without which disinfection must necessarily be incomplete. Moreover it is somewhat inconsistent with the voluntary system to keep people, as the unroofing process does, for any time out of their houses. I can understand that it would be a good thing entirely to unroof some of the filthy huts of which this City is composed, and this could be done if the sufferers were removed to hospital, and accomodation could be provided for the other inmates to be used or not as they pleased. Merely to take off a small strip of the roof must tend to incense the people without any practical advantage, whilst during the rains the operation probably damages the structure.

I may mention that I showed the rough draft of this Note to Dr. Achyut Rao and the Deputy Commissioner inviting them to comment thereon, and have in parts amended it according to their suggestions. In regard to all the material points I believe they agree with me. The state of things at Mysore now is in my opinion serious, and demands the most grave and sustained attention. I am aware that the Darbar have been hitherto very ready to admit the necessity for a generous expenditure on plague suppressive measures, but I seem now to detect a tendency to undue economy, and, up to the present time, a failure to recognize the gravity of the situation, accompanied by a slackness in administering this Department in Mysore which I feel sure I have only to notice to ensure the application of the necessary remedial action.

The seizures on the 3rd September are reported as 57 which is only slightly below the highest on record during the outbreak of 1899.

DONALD ROBERTSON,
Resident in Mysore.

Residency Press, Bangalore.—19-9-1900.—25.

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My Dear friend

I have this day received a copy of the Resident's note. I am getting a statement prepared to show to the Resident that, so far as funds were concerned there was no undue Economy". As regards other points you will I am sure, be able to record your views. The Government of India Notification referred to by the Resident in his note does not appear to have been published